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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

What is claimed is:

Claim 1 (currently amended) A balloon catheter having a proximal end and a distal end for medically treating a patient, comprising:

a hypotube having a proximal tubular portion, an intermediate tubular portion having a longitudinal indentation, and a distal portion;

an inner tubular body having a proximal and distal end, and defining a proximal and distal guidewire guidewire port at each end respectively, and a guidewire lumen extending between the guidewire ports;

an outer tubular body having a proximal and distal end, and surrounding at least a portion of the inner tubular body;

the proximal ends of the inner and outer tubular bodies being affixed together and sealed to the hypotube at a point defined at or near a transition between the intermediate and distal portions of the hypotube;

a balloon affixed to the inner and outer tubular bodies at or near their distal ends;
an inflation lumen extending from a proximal end of the hypotube ~~proximal end~~, through the hypotube proximal and intermediate tubular portions, and through an annular space between the outer and inner tubular bodies, into an interior of the balloon;

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the distal portion of the hypotube extending a distance into the outer tubular body;
providing a transition in flexibility between the tubular portions of the hypotube to the
inner and outer bodies;
the balloon catheter thus having a rapid-exchange configuration.

Claim 2 (currently amended) The balloon catheter of Claim 1, wherein the balloon has a
central inflatable portion between a proximal collar and a distal collar each affixed to the
~~outer and inner tubular bodies, respectively catheter shaft; the balloon in an initial~~
~~configuration being deflated, pleated and wrapped around the catheter shaft.~~

Claim 3 (original) The balloon catheter of Claim 1, wherein the hypotube is integral and
unitary.

Claim 4 (original) The balloon catheter of Claim 1, wherein the distal portion of the
hypotube has an arcuate cross-section.

Claim 5 (original) The balloon catheter of Claim 1, wherein the longitudinal indentation is
shallower in a proximal direction, and deeper in a distal direction.

Claim 6 (original) The balloon catheter of Claim 1, wherein the proximal portion of the
hypotube is cylindrical.

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Claim 7 (original) The balloon catheter of Claim 6, further comprising a tapering portion between the proximal cylindrical portion and the indented intermediate portion.

Claim 8 (original) The balloon catheter of Claim 1 further comprising a stent crimped around the balloon.

Claim 9 (original) The balloon catheter of Claim 1, wherein the proximal ends of the inner and outer tubular bodies are sealed to the hypotube with a single seal.

Claim 10 (original) The balloon catheter of Claim 1, wherein the hypotube is made of stainless steel.